

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 31, 2003 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Applicant adds New Claim 21 which does not add any new matter.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14, 16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,937,777 issued to Flood et al. ("*Flood*"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection of Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14, 16, and 18-20.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part, "A system for communicating management information, comprising ... a first interface card ... a second interface card ... and a management card coupled to the first interface card and the second interface card, the management card operable to ... receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card ... establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client ... and communicate management information using the communication link." *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various limitations of Claim 1.

At the outset, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner fails to identify which components of *Flood* he equates with the "management card," "first interface card," and "second interface card" recited in Claim 1. Even if *Flood* discloses a "management card," a "first interface card," and a "second interface card," which Applicant traverses, *Flood* still fails to teach, suggest, or disclose particular functionality performed by the "management card" recited in Claim 1.

For example, even if the Examiner equates "system controller 16" of *Flood* with the "management card" of Claim 1, the system controller 16 of *Flood* fails to "receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card" or "establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client" as recited, in part, in Claim 1. To reject this

portion of Claim 1, the Examiner relies upon a portion of *Flood* that describes the system controller 16 being “connected through cable 25 to a programming terminal 24.” (*Flood*; col. 4, ll. 50-67). Terminal 24 of *Flood* “is used to load the user programs into the programmable controller and configure its operation, as well as monitor its performance.” (*Flood*; col. 4, ll. 50-54). Significantly, this portion of *Flood* makes clear that the connection referred to is between the controller 16 and terminal 24. If the Examiner equates controller 16 with the “management card” of Claim 1, then the connection between controller 16 and terminal 24 does not teach, suggest, or disclose “a communication link between a client and a particular one of the **first interface card** and the **second interface card** selected in response to the command communicated by the client” as recited, in part, in Claim 1. Moreover, nothing about the download of “user programs” into the “programmable controller” of *Flood* has anything to do with a “a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card” as recited, in part, in Claim 1.

Flood further discloses that “system controller 16 may be also connected via a cable 26 to a local area network 28 over which it may receive data and programming instructions, as well as issue status information and report data to a host computer. This enables a central host computer or central terminal to program and control the operation of a plurality of programmable controllers on a factory floor.” (*Flood*; col. 4, ll. 61-67). Significantly, this portion of *Flood* makes clear that the connection referred to is also between the controller 16 and the local area network 28. Again, if the Examiner equates controller 16 with the “management card” of Claim 1, then the connection between controller 16 and local area network 28 does not teach, suggest, or disclose a “communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client” and certainly fails to teach, suggest, or disclose a “management card ... operable to ... communicate management information using the communication link” as recited, in part, in Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); M.P.E.P. § 2131. In addition, “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); M.P.E.P. § 2131 (emphasis

added). As *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose a “management card … operable to … receive a command from a client, the command identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card … establish a communication link between a client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to a command communicated by the client,” *Flood* cannot anticipate Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 1.

Claims 4-6 depend upon Claim 1, shown above to be allowable, and recite further limitations that are patentably distinguishable over *Flood*. For example, Claim 6 recites, “wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.” To reject Claim 6, the Examiner relies upon a reference known simply as *Mitchell*. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide detail as to what is the *Mitchell* reference. Even if this is a typographical mistake and the Examiner intended to rely on *Flood*, the cited portion of *Flood* (col. 5, ll. 12-26) discloses “input status data from the input image tables in one or more of the I/O scanner modules 20” and “output state data to the output image table in the I/O scanning module 20,” neither of which teaches, suggests, or discloses “information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.” For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 4-6.

Claim 7, which is not amended herein, recites, in part, “A method for communicating management information performed by a management card, comprising … receiving a command from a client, the command identifying a particular one of a first interface card and a second interface card … establishing a communication link between the client and the particular interface card in response to receiving the command … and communicating management information using the communication link.” *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of Claim 7. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 7.

Claims 10-13 depend from Claim 7, shown above to be allowable, and recite additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over *Flood*. For example, Claim 13 recites, in part, “wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.” *Flood* fails to

teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of Claim 13. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claims 4-6, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 10-13.

Claim 14, which is not amended herein, recites, in part, “A management card, comprising ... a switch coupled to a first interface card and a second interface card ... and a processor coupled to the switch and operable to ... receive a command communicated by a client, the command identifying a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card ... and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the particular interface card.” *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of Claim 14. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 14.

Claims 16 and 18-20 depend from Claim 14, shown above to be allowable, and recite additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over *Flood*. For example, Claim 20 recites, in part, “wherein the management information comprises information used to configure a network device associated with the particular interface card.” *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of Claim 20. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claims 4-6, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 16 and 18-20.

New Claim 21 recites, “A system for communicating management information, comprising ... means for receiving a command from a client, the command identifying a particular one of a first interface card and a second interface card ... means for establishing a communication link between the client and the particular interface card in response to receiving the command ... and means for communicating management information using the communication link.” *Flood* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of New Claim 21. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of New Claim 21.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Flood* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,895 issued to Schneider et al. ("Schneider"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection of Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, and 17.

Amended Claim 2 recites, in part, "wherein the management card comprises ... a switch operable to establish the communication link between the client and one of a first port and a second port of the management card ... a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card ... and a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to ... receive the command ... determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information ... and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port." The *Flood-Schneider* combination fails to teach, suggest, or disclose various aspects of amended Claim 2.

First, the Examiner completely fails to identify which components of *Schneider* he equates to the "management card", the "switch", the "processor", and the "memory" of Claim 2. Second, to the extent the Examiner equates the "switches 74a and 74b" of *Schneider* to the "switch" recited in Claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that the "switches 74a and 74b" do not form a part of a "management card" (Claim 2 recites, in part, "wherein the management card comprises ... a switch"). Third, although *Schneider* makes mention of a "switch port," the *Flood-Schneider* combination completely fails to teach, suggest, or disclose "a memory operable to store mapping information associating the first port with the first interface card and the second port with the second interface card" as recited in Claim 2. Finally, the *Flood-Schneider* completely fails to teach, suggest, or disclose "a processor coupled to the memory and the switch, the processor operable to ... receive the command ... determine the port associated with the particular interface card using the mapping information ... and command the switch to establish the communication link between the client and the determined port" as recited in Claim 2. Therefore, the limited teachings of *Schneider* directed to a "switch port" – whether or not combined with *Flood* -- do not teach, suggest, or disclose many aspects of Claim 2. For at least these reasons, and because Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 shown above to be allowable, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 2.

Claims 8 and 15 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claim 2, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 8 and 15.

Claim 3 recites, in part, “wherein ... the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system ... the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system ... and the processor is further operable to configure the management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card.” The Examiner relies upon a portion of *Flood* (col. 4 ll. 33-49 and 61-67) to reject Claim 3. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The cited portion of *Flood* is limited to “I/O racks 17 and networks 15” that “employ conventional interface and communication technology.” (*Flood*, col. 4, ll. 43-44). *Flood* also states that the “system controller 16 ... may receive data and programming instructions, as well as issue status information and report data to a host computer. This enables a central host computer or central terminal to program and control the operation of a plurality of programmable controllers on a factory floor.” (*Flood*, col. 4, ll. 61-67). Applicant respectfully submits that the “conventional interface and communication technology,” “data and programming instructions,” and “status information and report data” taught by *Flood* have nothing to do with a “processor” that is “operable to configure the management information for the operating system of the network device associated with the particular interface card” as recited in Claim 3. Indeed, *Flood* does not even remotely consider different “operating systems” or “the first interface card is coupled to a first network device that uses a first operating system ... the second interface card is coupled to a second network device that uses a second operating system” as recited in Claim 3. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 3.

Claims 9 and 17 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, and for those stated above with regard to Claim 3, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 9 and 17.

CONCLUSION

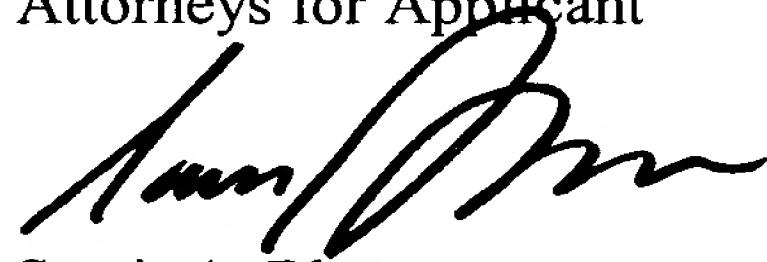
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Applicant encloses a check in the amount of \$102.00 to cover the cost of additional claims. Although no other fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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